

# BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

**Birmingham Works for Youth**  
2001-2002 Grant Amount: **\$5 Million**

## Jefferson County

### Office of Community Development

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## Mission and Vision

All youth will be offered opportunities, services and support that seek to develop: competence in achieving their developmental milestones, confidence in their skills and abilities, and connection to their families, communities, and careers.

## Program Overview

Our goal is to place and retain young people in jobs that are long-term, significantly decrease high school dropout rates, and improve college enrollment rates.

## HIGHLIGHTS AND INNOVATIVE PRACTICES

- The Jefferson County Job Access and Reverse Commute grant from the United States Department of Transportation leverages transportation funds for Youth Opportunity Grant (YOG) youth who participate in training and employment programs.
- The program will soon be opening a newly renovated Youth Center located in an old school on the grounds of Bethel Baptist Church.
- The program offers in conjunction with the University of Alabama at Birmingham a career development component in which youth sample different occupations before settling on a work experience position in a particular industry.

## KEY PARTNERS/COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- **Jefferson County Office of Community Development:** provides oversight and direction
- **The United Way:** the lead agency for the project
- **The Urban League:** operates the satellite center
- **Birmingham City Schools:** hosts case workers to serve in-school youth
- **Girls, Inc.:** provides programs and activities for young women enrolled in the project
- **University of Alabama at Birmingham:** coordinates career development program for enrollees